



Foggy Bottom News

March 1997

Published for and by the Citizens of Foggy Bottom and West End

Volume 39, No. 5

FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEETING

Speakers:

Mark Constantine

Manager, Corporate Relations
International Finance Corporation

and

John Franklin Williams, Jr. M.D., Ed.D.

Medical Director

The George Washington University Hospital

Monday, February 24, 1997

Wyndham Bristol Hotel

2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

7:30 p.m.

(Next Month's Meeting, Monday, March 31, 1997)

CFO Anthony Williams Assesses Progress and Tasks Ahead

Anthony Williams, The District's Chief Financial Officer, described for the January meeting of the Foggy Bottom Association the Augean stables he found on arrival at the end of 1995, and the steps he is taking to get the District's financial and management affairs in order.

Williams likened the District to a teenager who learns bad financial habits from her parents, and then is so ecstatic about getting out of the house that she does not stop to arrange for her basic needs. When Home Rule was offered, the District did not insist on sensible or sustainable arrangements with respect to pensions, Medicaid or revenues. It had learned bad fiscal habits from its Federal parents, and managed badly. The extent of the problem was masked by the econ-

omy of the 1970s and early 1980s, but became clear by the late 1980s. However, no effort was made to correct matters when a fix would have been relatively painless. Then a new mayor said that \$600 million would remedy all problems. That was not true, but in any event no one can now say where the money went. A further \$300 million loan from Wall Street staved off obvious insolvency for only seven to eight months.

By the time Williams was appointed CFO under the new Control Board regime, the District had a cash deficit of half a billion dollars; a massive fiscal management problem, such that infusion of a billion dollars might not have improved government services; and a severe underlying economic

(Continued on p. 8)

Rash of Robberies Hits Foggy Bottom/ West End

An unusual number of bank and other robberies is taking place in our area, as evidenced by a February 3 bank robbery at 2101 L Street, and a February 5 bank robbery in the 2500 block of M Street. The money taken in the second robbery was recovered but the thief was not apprehended. Earlier, on January 31, at 9:00 p.m., a resident of the 2500 block of Eye Street was held up behind her home by a man holding a gun. He escaped with a ring and wristwatch. In another holdup with knife on February 1 in the 2300 block of Eye Street, suspects were arrested.

These most recent events follow closely other incidents late last year when two residents of the 2500 block of Eye Street were robbed. Efforts to interest sufficient numbers of residents to contract with a private security firm for a roving guard were unsuccessful. The increase in dangerous incidents may warrant renewed interest on the part of residents. Call Paul Falon or C. A. Mitchell at 202-337-8281 for more information on the security program proposal.

ANC-2A Elects Officers; Sets Meeting Dates

The Foggy Bottom/West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission met on Monday, February 3, for its required election of officers. **Bernard Mozer**, who lives in Potomac Plaza Terraces, was elected ANC chair, **Michael Geroe** of The Westbridge is vice-chair; **Jean Swift** of West End Apartments on Eye Street will act as secretary; and **Maria Tyler** of 25th Street is the new treasurer. The commissioners also voted to continue their monthly meetings on third Wednesday of each month.

At the February meeting . . .

IFC and GWUMC Executives to Speak

Two speakers will make presentations at the February 24 meeting of the Foggy Bottom Association, scheduled for the Wyndham Bristol Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. at 7:30 p.m.

The first speaker will be Mark Constantine, Manager of Corporate Relations for the International Finance Corporation (IFC). Mr. Constantine will discuss the IFC's new headquarters building at 2121 Pennsylvania Avenue. The IFC is the member of the World Bank Group which promotes private sector development through direct investments in private enterprises.

The new IFC headquarters includes an auditorium/theater facility which will host periodic cultural and musical events open to the community. Our speaker will discuss this and other features of the new facility.

Also at the meeting will be John Franklin Williams, Jr., M.D., Ed.D., Medical Director of the GWU hospital. Dr. Williams will speak about the pending merger of the medical center with OrNda Healthcorp (expected to merge with Tenet Healthcare Corporation of Santa Barbara, California).

GWU announced in October its intention to merge with OrNda, following a long search by GWU for a financial and management partner. The university stressed that important functions, such as the emergency and trauma care would continue, as well as its "tradition of caring for the city's underinsured and uninsured citizens." Also preserved would be the medical school which has trained physicians in the District for 170 years. According to the material issued by GWU, "substantially all hospital employees will be retained, with salaries and benefits consistent with the local market." A major change would be the shift from a non-profit institution to one run by a for-profit organization.

Among the items discussed by Dr. Williams will be the legal procedures and timetable required, including the hearing at which the public can be heard.

The IFC and GWUMC are two institutions of great import to our area; you will want to be present to hear and ask questions about each.

D.C. Halts Curbside Recycling

The city's curbside recycling collection by Eagle Maintenance was discontinued in early February, following the control board's rejection of an extension of the contract. The contract had called for bi-weekly collection of newspapers, aluminum and plastics. Residents now need to take their materials to recycling centers (or place them in regular trash). The closest location is on the GWU campus, at 2121 I Street, but it takes only glass. Also glass can be left at the Department of the Interior, Virginia Avenue between 18th and 19th Streets, and Jerusalem Baptist Church, 26th and P Streets, N.W.

A group called Thumbs Up Youth Enterprises has set up a drop-off site at H.D. Cooke Elementary School on 17th Street, just below Columbia Road in Adams Morgan. Residents may bring recyclables to the site on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, but are asked to donate \$5 as well to benefit the young people staffing the site. The young people also clean up neighborhood areas and in the summer grow vegetables, do landscaping and other community projects. According to Todd Mosley, who directs the program, they are working toward opening other sites in D.C., possibly in Dupont Circle and the Foggy Bottom/GWU area. We'll keep you posted.

Note: Why not arrange with a neighbor to take turns driving recyclables to a drop-off point, such as Thumbs Up?

The Becker Beat



The column this month is short, but sweet it's not. It was reported in the February 10 *GW Hatchet* that the university has received 12,200 undergraduate admission applications. From that number they will "bring in a freshman class of 1,700," the *Hatchet* quoted Frederic Siegel, director of admissions. The new dorm will house 450. Has any progress been made, President Trachtenberg?



Intentions Are Affirmative and Benign

I read your "Becker Beat" column in the *Foggy Bottom News*, and while I am not Paul S who left a message on your answering machine about his finding a lack of friendliness in Foggy Bottom, I must confess that there are moments when my own sentiments turn in that direction. I wish it were otherwise, and I'd be pleased more than I can say if it were.

I think of myself as a pretty friendly person, as do most of my colleagues and my friends. But I have to wonder sometimes at some of the things I read about myself in the *Foggy Bottom News* and indeed now and again even in your very own column. The point I was

trying to make in the *Independence Magazine* interview was that GW's intentions toward the Foggy Bottom community were affirmative and benign and that we wanted more than anything else both to be and to be seen as good neighbors. No doubt, over the course of a century change will be inevitable, but the present and the foreseeable future should be as cooperative and as mutually supportive as we can appropriately make them. I hope this can be the theme of our relationship as we approach the 21st Century.

—Stephen Joel Trachtenberg

New Look At West End Library

by Lucille Duprat

The West End Branch Library these days has a bright new look with not one penny spent on improvements. Check it out for yourself! You'll find the thick layers of light-blocking dust on the windows gone—making the area look brighter and more spacious. The "spic and span" maintenance of all other areas as well has resulted in the abatement of the unpleasant odors which sometimes permeated the air. As a consequence of the improved ambience, the staff's work environment is more pleasant and their demeanor reflects it.

All of this is the result of the work of one person: Calvin Davis, the new custodian of the West End Branch Library, who obviously takes pride in his work. Thank you, Mr. Davis!

Betty's Box

Tidbits of news and information will appear monthly in this box in the *Foggy Bottom News* in memory of Betty Lawrence Olsen. She is fondly remembered by all in the neighborhood for her delightful columns 'Sidewalk Talk' and 'Biz Buzz' in this paper and her hard work as advertising manager. She was also on the Board of the Foggy Bottom Association and an active member of the community. This seems to us to be a great way to remember her and keep her in our thoughts!



Every time Betty would hear about something that turned out badly, she'd try to find the bright spot in the situation, saying "It's truly an ill wind that doesn't blow somebody some good."

Stroke fact (Betty died from a stroke): When you get a physical, ask the doctor to listen to the carotid arteries in your neck. If there is severe blockage, they can hear it through a stethoscope. It was a blocked carotid artery that led to Betty's stroke.

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March 1997

Volume 39, No. 5

Foggy Bottom News

The *Foggy Bottom News* is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. All editorial assistance is contributed on a volunteer basis by residents of the area.

Editor Ellie Becker
Ad Manager..... Steve Timlin
Ad Billing Ilona Melstrads

To place ads, call Steve Timlin at 338-8750. Cost for classified ads is 80¢ per word; a 2-inch high by 2-column (or 4-inch high by 1-column wide) ad — the smallest available — is \$38.50.

FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

c/o West End Library
24th & L Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

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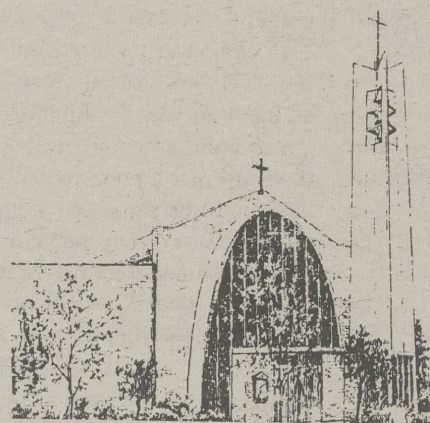
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Emergency Means No Parking

by Steve Timlin

You have probably seen these signs tied to trees or lampposts occasionally. They are provided by the Metropolitan Police Dept. upon request. A logbook entry is made regarding the citizen, location and the reason.

After last January's problems of ice damming and melting water dripping into my house for three days, I wanted to get a new roof. It wasn't until August that any roofing company I called would even send an estimator. I got three estimates and signed a proposal for a new roof.

When the roofing company's supplier arrived from Baltimore with a long, flatbed truck to make my delivery, the truck couldn't get to the curb due to parked vehicles. The boom with the conveyor belt to carry roofing materials to my roof couldn't reach the roof from the traffic lane in the 2400 block of I Street. My roofing materials were taken back to Baltimore.

I called the Community & Youth Services line (202) 282-2500 at the Second District Police Station to inquire about Emergency No Parking signs I'd seen. I was told that I could get the signs at the Second District Police Station (on Idaho Avenue, west of Wisconsin Avenue and Newark Street). A citizen must give 72 hours notice of when the parking emergency is to be in effect so the signs must be obtained 72 hours, or more, before the starting time and date.

I called the roofing company and said I could get the signs. It seemed like a good idea. The delivery was rescheduled for Monday, October 14th. I went to the police station by bus and obtained the signs on October 11th, marked the hours and dates on them as needed, and put them up that day for Monday, October 14th and Tuesday, October 15th.

On Monday morning, there were three cars parked in the space that was supposed to be clear. All had D.C. tags and two

had Ward 2 residential parking stickers, so they are owned by neighbors who ignored my signs. The cars were a black Jaguar, a tan Mitsubishi Galant and a black Honda Civic.

The supplier's flatbed delivery truck returned from Baltimore and stopped in the traffic lane, as before. I called the D.C. Dept. of Public Works (DPW) Parking Enforcement at 541-6060 and got no answer. I called the Community and Youth Services line at the Second District Police Station and got no answer. I went outside to look for a cruising scout car or police motorcycle. A GWU security patrol car came by and I talked with the security guard. She told me that when there is a federal holiday it is also a D.C. holiday (Columbus Day) and that parking enforcement personnel weren't working. The delivery truck left to make another delivery and return.

I called Police Communications at 727-4326 to request a scout car. Two scout cars arrived in about 15 minutes. The officers told me that Emergency No Parking signs take precedence over a holiday when parking may be allowed in places where parking is ordinarily prohibited. One of the officers ticketed the three cars at my request.

I inquired about getting the cars towed away. When the cars are parked in a public space (such as on the street) it is up to the police to order a crane (towtruck) to remove the cars *after* they have been ticketed. If the cars are on my private property, it is up to me to call a private towing service after ticketing. The owners of the cars have to pay for the towing.

After about an hour, the driver of the Jaguar arrived, picked his ticket off the windshield and drove away. A while later, the driver of the Honda Civic arrived, picked her ticket off the windshield and drove away. That left the Mitsubishi Galant in the critical center space. Later, the driver arrived, picked his ticket off the windshield, looked puzzled at the situation of yellow caution tape strung around and a

FBNews Helpers Needed

The *News* is looking for two persons who could deliver papers to neighboring houses and merchants. As you may know, the paper is distributed nine times a year, and each person's delivery route requires no more than 15-20 minutes. Please consider volunteering to take those few minutes to help keep us a friendly neighborhood. Both of the routes needing help are near 25th & K Streets. Call 337-5528 if you can help.

trash truck by my house to receive the trash from removal of my old roof. He sat down behind the steering wheel.

Just then, the delivery truck rounded the corner to attempt the delivery. The driver of the Mitsubishi Galant drove away, not knowing the rest of the story. Those drivers' cars were ticketed, but the drivers got out of paying to get their cars back.

The long delivery truck backed up on an angle onto the curb, grass and sidewalk. The operator maneuvered the boom with the conveyor belt into place. Two helpers moved my roofing materials up to the roof easily and left. The four roofers who had torn off my old roof were able to put down the first two layers that afternoon and finished the job the next day.

The police crane never showed up. I called Police Communications 3-1/2 hours after the scout cars left and cancelled the crane.

If you see Emergency No Parking signs posted, please be aware that your neighbor (or government agency) who put them up had a good reason. By observing the signs and parking elsewhere, you may prevent unnecessary anxiety for one of your neighbors as well as preventing loss of time by truckers or roofers or others, as well as their companies.

Please be more considerate than these careless drivers. The car that's towed could be your own.

Good Old Days-1931

The Empire State Building in New York City is dedicated and opens to the public. The 102-story skyscraper becomes the world's tallest building. And construction finishes on the George Washington Bridge, which becomes the world's longest suspension bridge.

Also in 1931:

-Col. Jacob Schick invents the first electric razor, which goes on sale in Stamford, Connecticut. It doesn't shave worth a whisker, but it sells well anyway.

-Mobster Al Capone is convicted of income tax evasion and is sentenced to eleven years in prison;

-Department store clerks earn \$5 to \$10 a week; secretaries earn \$15;

-Hattie T. Caraway, from Arkansas, becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate;

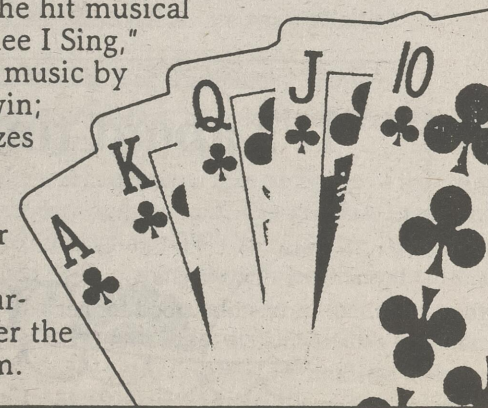
-Pepper Martin bats .500 in the World Series and leads the St. Louis "Gashouse Gang" to a victory over Philadelphia;

-Widespread disillusionment with politics is reflected in the hit musical comedy "Of Thee I Sing,"

which features music by George Gershwin;

-Nevada legalizes gambling;

-President Herbert Hoover signs an act making The Star-Spangled Banner the national anthem.



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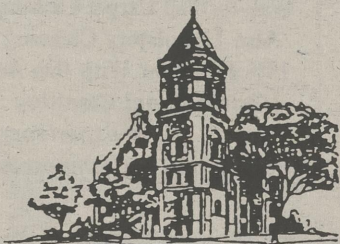
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Foggy Bottom Folks

Remember last month's article about the "urban garden" of John Graves? One person who figures heavily in that story was **Bill Beck**, the city's "tree guy." Beck hit the local press again in the story about the infamous shoes on a tree in front of a GWU fraternity house. Everyone seems to want them removed, but neither the university crews or the fraternity have made it happen. Since the tree is on public property, the city was asked to remove them and Bill Beck responded that they have "so many prior commitments with dead and dangerous trees" that the shoes had to take a back seat. Also involved in the dispute was **Tom Day**, DPW's expert on pos-

tering and other offenses against public property, who has frequent opportunities to find offenders in the GWU area.



New to the area are two chiropractors who have opened their practice in the Columbia Hospital professional building at 24th & M Streets. They are Drs. **Joseph Esposito** and **Marissa O'Malia**, who in addition to their office practice are lecturers

and consultants to local athletes and health clubs. Plans call for them to contribute a health tips article in future FBN issues.

Several young people from our neighborhood schools made the papers in the recent past. **Marc McGruder** and **Richard Miller** appeared in a *Washington Times* photo as they tried to win the "Great American Smoke-scream" at Francis Junior High at 24th & N Streets. The contest was sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

At the School Without Walls, **Richard Jones**, 17, was pictured holding his Caring Award, presented for his efforts in helping veterans at a local nursing home. He and Rev. John Steinbruck of the Luther Place Memorial Church were selected by the Caring Institute for recognition of their kindness to strangers. The awards took



place at the Andrew Mellon Auditorium.

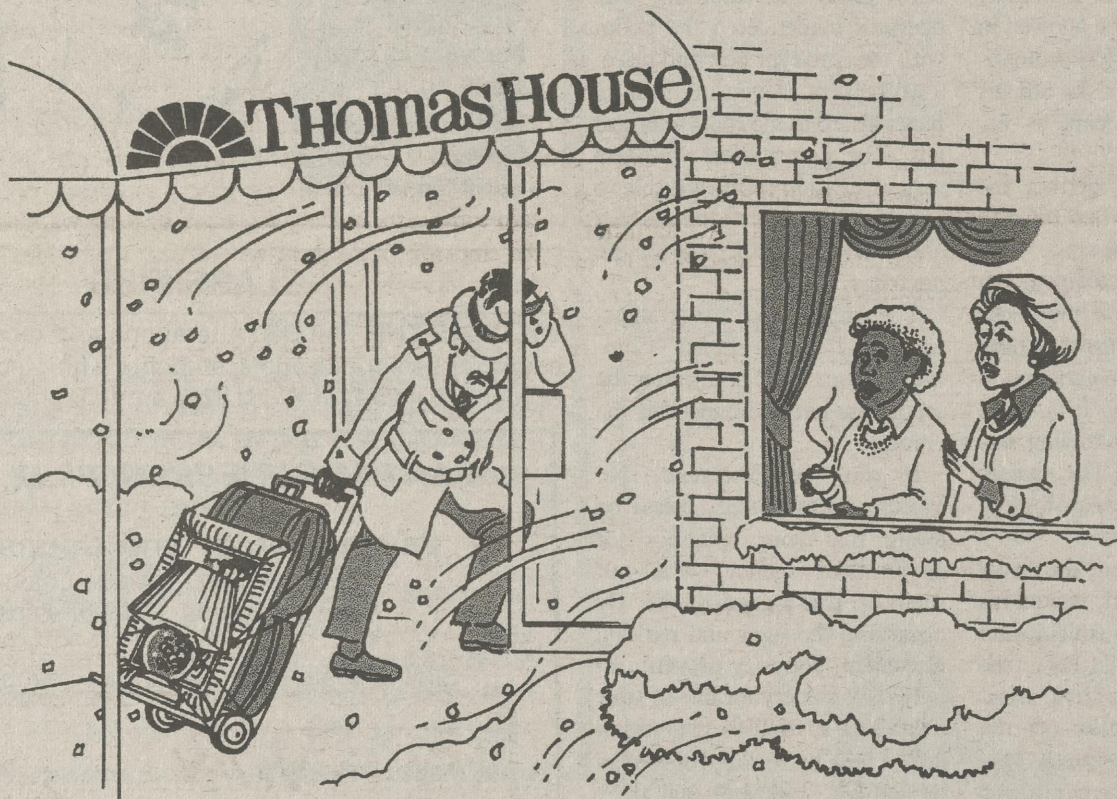
Jones attends the senior high school located near 22nd and G Streets, works parttime in a downtown law firm, but has time to spend at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center "aiding the aging soldiers... who fought in wars long before he was born" by exercising their muscles and arranging bingo games and field trips.

A teacher from School Without Walls has also made the news in the recent past. **Emily Washington**, who teaches humanities and African literature at the senior high on G Street near 22nd Street, was named to the new D.C. school system Board of Trustees. The new Board was named by the D.C. Financial Control Board to oversee the schools.

At Thaddeus Stevens Elementary School on 21st Street, an important event ended up with a very important guest. The event was the annual "Girls Conference" held at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel on New Hampshire Avenue. Programs of special interest to the young women (4th, 5th and 6th graders) attending were opportunities for adult women to assist and mentor the girls. The special guest however, was not a female, but the new chief executive officer/superintendent of the school system, retired three-star general **Julius W. Becton, Jr.**

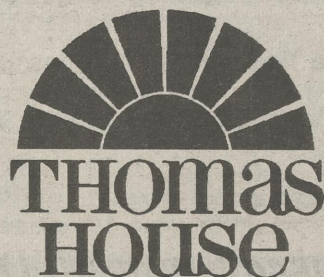
(Continued on pg. 5)

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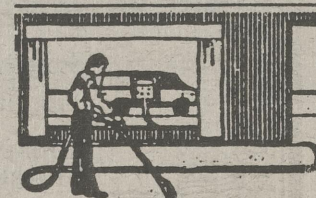
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Folks (Continued from page 4)

And speaking of the Sheraton City Centre, Executive Chef **Mark Pearson** has compiled a "Super Soups" cookbook which is for sale to benefit the hotel's community efforts. The book features culinary tips and recipes for outstanding soups including Baked Potato Soup, Beer Cheese Soup, Catfish Soup, Chicken Gumbo Creole, Chef Pearson's Filet Mignon Chili (!), and Italian Sausage Soup. Among their community efforts is an ongoing program with Stevens Elementary School, including culinary classes by the chef and his staff, and various home maintenance classes by their engineering staff. To obtain a cookbook, send \$5 to Sheraton City Centre, 1143 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20037. Send to Peg Nichols, Director of Public & Community Relations, with checks payable to Sheraton City Centre/Community Service Cookbook.

The February issue marked the last in a long series of *FBNews* set and laid out by our good friend Barbara Battles Queen at Casillas Press. Barbara has taken an exciting new job, and will be working on financial reports and other less neighborly publications. While we wish her well, it will be a difficult adjustment, considering Barbara has shepherded the *FBN* for over ten years, and knew it backwards and forwards.

There was an article in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* which surely caught the eye of anyone from our area. It was entitled "Bottom Line: This part of D.C. is a treat." We agree, as we do with the subtitle: "The Watergate isn't the only attraction in Foggy Bottom." No truer words have been spoken!!

Other true words included: "George Washington University moved to Foggy Bottom in 1912,

slowly buying block after block, renovating and tearing down along the way; the school, occupying the heart of the neighborhood, remains the second-largest landowner in the district, behind the federal government."

Anita Jungling, the stalwart staff member at The United Church, has left her position there, and we wish her the best. She told us that **Sonja Herald** will take over her duties, and we bid her welcome. By the way, Anita was kind enough to send the church's Holy Week and Easter schedule way in advance so it can be published in our next issue.

Beth Donovan lived in Foggy Bottom for some years and wrote some great stories for the *FBNews*. After she earned her degree in journalism from American University, she headed back toward her family's home in Connecticut, but recently lived in New York City and worked on a suburban Connecticut newspaper. Now she has moved further north and now works for the daily *Union News* in Springfield, Massachusetts. She did not, however, get clean away from college life; she covers Holyoke, home of Mt. Holyoke College, as part of her beat, and reports she likes that part very much.

Few people extol education and family values with such sincerity as **Don Tobey**, and he occasionally comments on the lack thereof in this day and age. The death of Pamela Harriman reminded him that "great fortunes do not mean great happiness." He notes that we know from the media that the Getty billions and the Haft and Harriman hundreds of millions brought "bitter family fights and jealousies, children relying not on work but on fights," often living miserable lives.

Eco-Tip

Turn the faucet off when you are brushing your teeth, shaving or doing the dishes. Besides helping conserve our water supply, this will save you money.

The Local Kaleidoscope

by John Graves

The Eye Street "Mall" has become "pebble beach." Once it was a public street between 23rd and 24th — and some drivers still consider it a street. In some areas the detritus makes it quite difficult to walk. Joe, our resident panhandler, told me he turned his ankle in one of those "potholes." In the southwest quadrant the dip is so low that a small pond accumulates during a rain. The only stable, and level, part in the entire area is the chess table.

The reconstruction should be a joint effort of the District, METRO and GWU since all of their heavy vehicles use it as a street. The University does a marvelous job with the flowers and landscaping but the paved area needs a jackhammer. Moreover it is used by a lot of baby carriages and wheel chairs as well as handicapped people. Furthermore, it has become so bad that I cannot use my skateboard anymore. Let the repairs begin. So, who's in charge?

Watson to AAHSA Committee

Beatrice Watson, Administrator of St. Mary's Court, has been appointed to the Housing Committee of The American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, a national non-profit organization representing over 5,000 non-profit senior housing facilities.

Bea has been with the Court since its beginning in 1979, and an AAHSA member since 1982. She is responsible for all operations of the Court, including admissions, physical plant, financial management, staff supervision, resident care, fund raising, community and public relations and program activities. She is also a member of the Women's Board of GWU Hospital and the D.C. Association of Nonprofit Services for the Elderly.

We know that with the leadership she has shown in the field of aging services, Bea is ready to "make a difference" on a national, as well as a local, scale. Congratulations Bea!

The Foggy Bottom Diner

Riverside Grille

By Jim Patterson

Close to Foggy Bottom is the Riverside Grille, located at Washington Harbour. The Grille offers steaks and pasta at affordable prices. Diners will also enjoy an atmospheric dining room with unique views of the Potomac and the Kennedy Center.

Appetizers, including vegetarian dishes, average \$7. Salads include traditional Caesar salad, \$4.25, and the more pricey tuna Riviera, \$11.95. Customers can also design their own pizzas for \$7.95 plus \$1 per topping. Calamari rings are lightly fried with a tangy remoulade sauce.

The lunch menu offers a variety of choices including such specialties as Harbour Hamburger for \$5.95, and the Riverside Club at \$7.95. Other choices, in the higher price category, include the Little Georgetown, an 8-ounce Black Angus for \$12.95.

Dinner items range in price from \$12.95 for the cheese stuffed tortellini to \$22.95 for the Potomac Porterhouse. The dinner menu is generous, 13 dishes, and budget-friendly. Chicken Piccata, the house specialty, comes with artichoke hearts, capers, and lemon served with penne, marinara and fresh vegetables. The chicken was moist and tender and the vegetables, a combination of squash and carrots, were steamed to perfection.

Be sure to visit the Riverside Grille, located at 3050 K Street; telephone (202) 342-3535. Reservations are recommended.

GWU QuickBucks For Temporary Workers

Looking for responsible, intelligent, temporary assistance with work on a project? Why not hire a GW student?

The D.C. community is encouraged to take advantage of the George Washington University *QuickBucks Network*. *QuickBucks* is a temporary job listing service offered through the GW Career Center. Assignments typically range from one hour to thirty days in length, and currently enrolled GW students who are looking for short-term work are encouraged to register. According to Curtis Goode, the University's Director of Student Employment: "*QuickBucks* organizes GW students looking to earn some extra money, and matches them with local employers. For the employer, it's a great way to land a babysitter, research assistant, painter, or typist—you can conceivably use the Network for almost any kind of assignment."

To list positions on the *QuickBucks Network*, employers send in job descriptions that fit into one of eight categories: childcare, clerical, computer, moving, party help, pet care, research, and odd jobs. Descriptions are e-mailed to students who have specified an interest to work in the category into which the job falls. Agreements regarding work, salary, and length of time are between the employer and the student. The Career Center merely provides the network to facilitate these relationships.

For more information or to list a temporary job on *QuickBucks*, individuals may contact Sharon Sealing, the Career Center's Job Development Coordinator, at 202-994-6434.

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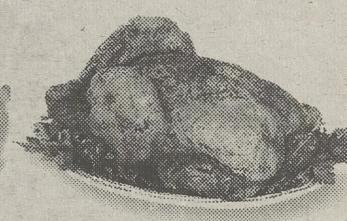
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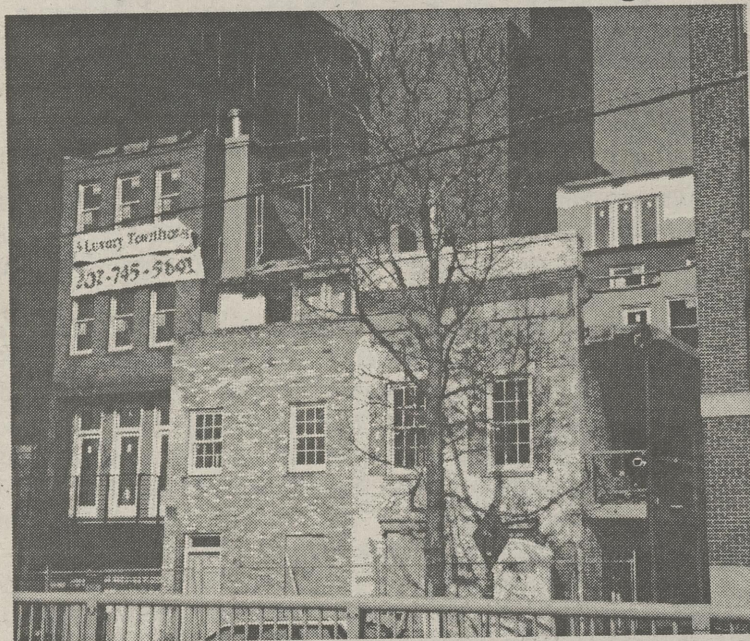
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New Houses at Historic Buildings



You may have noticed new townhouses going up on the old Cooper houses property along K Street. The developer of the five luxury townhomes is the Land Fund. The target date for completion is the spring. Three of the houses face K Street and the other two look over a small courtyard in the center of the property. The design incor-

porates the historic Cooper houses, the last surviving mid-19th century houses in the district. Three of the new houses have garages and they will feature amenities like oak floors and marble baths. The homes are expected to start a \$350,000 and go up from there, though no firm prices have been set.

Judie Thomas Dies in Wisconsin

Judie Thomas, longtime resident of the Jefferson House Condominium and *FBNews* helper, died in January at her family's home in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. Judie had been ill for some months and was receiving treatment for cancer. Judie served on the FBA Board of Directors for several years, and for many years was the primary delivery person for the *FBNews*. That involved the sorting, counting and bundling of the paper at St. Mary's Court, and then delivering the bundles to buildings and to other individual deliverers for further distribution. We thank her for all her efforts for Foggy Bottom, and we'll miss her. Her friend John Bardon is planning a memorial service in Foggy Bottom sometime later this year. She is survived by her mother, Beatrice "Billie" Thomas, a sister, Barbara T. Notch, and a brother, Rob Thomas, and three nieces.

The Radeloffs Become Washingtonians

The United Church has elected me as German pastor and successor to Rev. Gerhard Koslowsky. This church at 1920 G Street, N.W. is providing German services every first and third Sunday. Every Sunday there is an English service led by the Senior Pastor, Rev. Diana Ley. For a month my wife Ingeborg and I have been living in the Old Parish House. We have overcome the jet lag and are beginning to become Washingtonians.

Our farewell service in Germany was on Saturday, December 28, 1996. We said goodbye to our church members whom I had served for over 30 years and to the 32 pastors and the members of the church district of Dessau which I had overseen for 17 years. It was a moving event.

We left Dessau two days later on an icy Monday morning, December 30. Our son Jens-Peter transported my wife and me to Leipzig-Halle Airport. The Frankfurt-bound aircraft departed punctually. In the Frankfurt airport, where we had to change planes, we were not able to leave on time because of 17 aircraft ahead of us waiting for the de-icing machine. That caused a delay of 1-1/2 hours. We were surprised by the unexpected springlike weather in Washington.

The German community in Washington welcomed Inge and me in a joint New Year's Eve Holy Communion service in a chapel of Washington Cathedral. The new congregation in downtown Washington welcomed us with warm words when I had my first German service. We are sorry that a "Pasta Potluck" was cancelled. Ingeborg had prepared spaghetti and tomato sauce. There was less than an inch of snow on the streets. We had to learn; one snowflake causes a catastrophe in this city!

We have to learn so many new things. We spent many hours

learning what American bureaucracy is like. The first thing one must have in this country is a Social Security Card to open a bank account, take out auto insurance, and to apply for a driver's licence. After nine days I received my Social Security number, and we opened a bank account. We learned how to write checks in the American way. And I took the driver's exam. No, I did not make any mistakes! When I stood in a large crowd waiting for driver's licence, the computers broke down; I had to wait for over four hours in a large group of those who shared the same fate. I became very impatient, but Inge comforted me. She said: "It is harder in Germany than in the U.S. to get all this." She had accompanied Germans who came as refugees from the former Soviet Union to the Social Office in Dessau. The American forms are understandable. The German forms have their own bureaucratic language. I once sent a letter to an office in Dessau asking what they were questioning on their form. I wrote them: "German is my mother tongue and as a pastor I deal with this language intensively. But I do not understand what you mean."

We are surrounded by the Christian love of our new church. That comforts us and eases every dark thought when we look back on what we gave up in Dessau. Sometimes I feel like a little child who is beginning to speak. To jump into a country where another language is spoken and manners and customs and also church tradition are different from those in Germany is a great adventure.

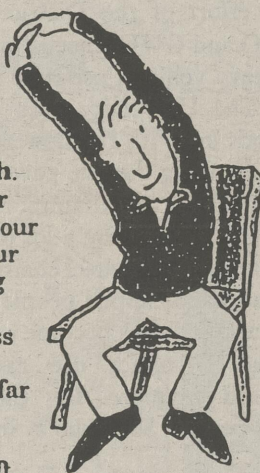
—Alfred Radeloff

At Your Desk Exercises



Middle-Upper Back Stretch. Raise your right arm and grasp it below the elbow with your left hand. Gently pull your right elbow toward your left shoulder as you feel the stretch. Hold for five seconds. Do both sides.

Side Stretch. Interlace your fingers. Lift your arms over your head, keeping your elbows straight. Press your arms backward as far as you can. Then slowly lean to the left, and then to the right, until you can feel stretching.



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Recollections of an Old Resident

by Mary K. Manzoli, Historian
(From the July, 1964 Foggy Bottom News)

Mr. Thomas Cavanaugh, who lives on the northeast corner of 24th and G Streets, is one of the few early residents still living in Foggy Bottom. A talk with him amid his flowers and trees on a Sunday afternoon recently was like taking a walk through our neighborhood as it must have been sixty or seventy years ago. Mr. Cavanaugh's father and grandfather lived in Foggy Bottom and he remembers many of the stories they used to tell about our district.

Foggy Bottom was the old First Ward in the days of self-government in Washington, before June 1878. Its Irish, German and Italian residents carried considerable political weight in city affairs. Each ethnic group had its own informal organization which was not only political but social and economic as well. Mr. Cavanaugh recalls that all the groups got along well with each other but each had its own doc-

tors, grocery stores, and bakeries. Mr. Cavanaugh's own grandfather was one of the leaders of the early Irish settlement. As a man of education, he was much in demand as a church and civic representative of his Irish colleagues, many of whom lacked the learning to cope with the complexities of living in a new country. The proverbial clannishness of the Irish also prevailed in Foggy Bottom — Mr. Cavanaugh remembers there was a saying that if one picked a fight with an Irishman at 17th Street, he would have to fight every Irishman clear down to the River at 27th Street before he could escape.

The Irish, and later the Italians worked primarily at the old gasworks that stood between 25th and 27th Streets. The Germans mostly worked in the breweries (which were described in our last issue). A small colony of Danes lived at the foot of 23rd Street when Mr. Cava-

naugh was a boy. They were the remainder of the workers who had operated the old glass factory up until about 1849. (See our issue of November 1963 for details on this factory.)

The ruins of the old glass plant still stood in the 1890's and the garbage barges stopped at the plant's little pier to collect city refuse.

Later, as the land was filled in and the Tiber Creek and the Washington Channel virtually disappeared, the barges could no longer come into the 23rd Street area and then began making their stops instead near the end of what is now Virginia Avenue.

In the days of Mr. Cavanaugh's father, much of the Foggy Bottom area was higher land than it is now — the miasmic marshes of legend were at the foot of the 23rd Street hill but most of the Virginia Avenue area was gently sloping high ground.

The street levels were lowered to just about their present grade during "Boss" Shepherd's administration in the 1870's. This colorful and forceful advocate of massive public works and city modernization created the Washington we know, although his tactics and alleged corruptions were largely responsible for the end of self-government in the District.

In Foggy Bottom, his street building activities cut and leveled ground to considerably below the original level at the site of Mr. Cavanaugh's house which stands ten feet or more above the streets at 24th and G Streets. The large tree on the corner of his lot was planted by his father in 1875 and at that time most of the land in that area was ten or more feet above the present level.

Recycling hint:

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Neighborhood Datebook

Saturday, February 22: West End Citizens Association Winter Meeting, with Stephen D. Harlan, Vice Chairman of the Control Board as guest speaker. State Plaza Hotel, 2116 F Street, N.W. 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Monday, February 24: Book sale, sponsored by the Women's Board of GWU Hospital. Sale will be held in area outside the hospital cafeteria. 901 23rd Street, N.W. 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday, February 24: Foggy Bottom Association meeting, with presentations by the International Finance Corporation on its new office building, and by The George Washington University Hospital on the proposed merger of the facility with OrNda Healthcorp. Wyndham Bristol Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 25: Lecture by Louis M. Sullivan, M.D., President, Morehouse School of Medicine and former Secretary of Health & Human Services, on "The Heroic Life," examining African-American achievements in public service. National Academy of Sciences Auditorium, 2100 C Street, N.W. 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 9: "Bach a la francaise," a concert presented by Stephen Ackert, organist, featuring Bach's Prelude in E-Flat, BWV 552, Piece d'orgue, BWV 572, Passacaglia & Fugue, and works by Francois Couperin and Andre Raison. The United Church, 1920 G Street, N.W. 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 11: Lisner Program for Young Audiences: Charlotte's Web, presented by Theatreworks/USA. Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st Street, N.W. Information: 202-994-1500. 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Thursday and Friday, March 13 & 14: Lisner Program for Young Audiences: Ella Jenkins, presented by Hughes Child Development Center. Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st Street, N.W. Information: 202-636-8333. 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon.

Wednesday, March 19: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A monthly meeting. Call 659-0011 for location. 7:45 p.m.

Thursday, March 20: Lisner Program for Young Audiences: A Midsummer Night's Dream, presented by the Washington Ballet. Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st Street, N.W. Information: 202-362-3606. 10:30 a.m.

Through Friday, March 21: GW Fine Arts Faculty Show, Dimock Gallery, Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st Street, N.W. Information: 202-994-1525. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Tuesday-Friday & special hours in conjunction with certain performances at Lisner Auditorium.

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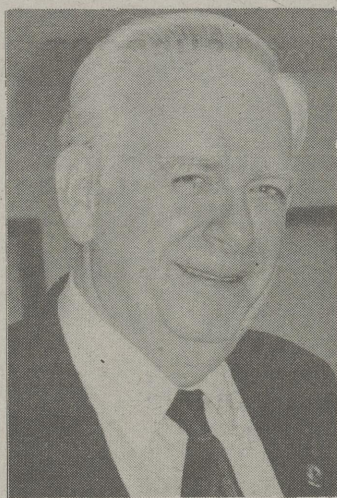
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Washington in the Post-War Era

A new exhibition opened at the Historical Society picturing D.C. in the post World II era, with extensive photos of the city from 1945 to 1950 taken by amateur photographer John P. Wymer.

The year 1950 in America has come to symbolize simpler values and family life; Washington's 1950, however, reveals the complex story under the sugary veneer. A new exhibition, "Black and White and Red, White and Blue: Washington, D.C. 1945-1950," explores the fabric of D.C.'s postwar experience as seen through the perspectives of its black and white communities and as influenced by its ruling body, the federal government.

World War II's finale in 1945 brought jubilation and the hope of peace and prosperity to a world exhausted by a decade and a half of economic depression and war. Long-suppressed hopes for the "good life" finally found expression—and with it, new tensions and conflicts. The war was over; housing, work, transportation, and education now emerged as major issues in American life. By looking at these issues in Washington, viewers can see a virtual case study of American apprehensions and aspirations during the post-war era.

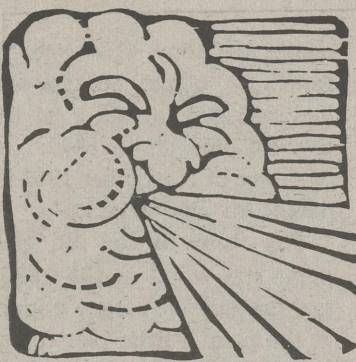
Washington in 1950 was a segregated city, still governed by federally appointed commissioners, with a population that had grown from 660,931 in 1940 to 805,178. Homeownership was a major goal, yet the city's housing supply was inadequate after 15 years of economic depression and war-mandated shortages of building materials. Builders renewed their pre-war forays into the suburbs, but while many middle- and upper-class white families could move out of older neighborhoods into new suburban "dream" houses, black Washingtonians had many fewer options. The federal government turned its attention and resources to domestic issues, and used Washington as a laboratory for

experiments in urban redevelopment, highway building, and desegregation. In order to accommodate the depression- and war-swollen federal workforce, it embarked on a federal building program.

The photos look at how the city's rapid growth thrust Washington into a new era of city planning and social transformation, when the United States government brought new policies and funding to support housing, schools, roads and offices. Suddenly citizens had to contend with "redevelopment" plans that looked to some like "Negro Removal." Highways meant to buttress the economy were planned also to replace "blighted" but vibrant neighborhoods.* Disruptions led to overcrowding and some "white flight" even before the landmark Brown v. Board of Education school desegregation case. Yet hundreds of newcomers of all races settled in the area, attracted to the government's promise of equality and justice. And hundreds more formed coalitions that transcended common divisions in order to preserve their communities and uplift their neighbors.

John Wymer's photographic record is blunt and straightforward, offering a window through which viewers can reconsider a key period in Washington's history. The exhibit opened on February 23. It is open Wednesday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Admission is free for members, \$3 for adults, and \$1.50 for seniors, students and children. The Society is located in the Heurich House Museum, 1307 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., just one block south of Dupont Circle. For further information call 1202-785-2068.

*Editor's note: One such highway is the one which remained unbuilt but left unused ramps west of 26th Street in Foggy Bottom. They were finally torn down during the recent Whitehurst Freeway construction.



Williams (from page 1)

problem, of the type shared by most major cities after the massive movement of population and political weight to the suburbs. Williams made clear that, although better management of cash, people, information and services is critical, the underlying structural economic problem must also be vigorously addressed.

Williams reported significant progress on the cash and financial management agenda. Vendor payables, which had worked like a lottery, were first alphabetized and then prioritized. Budget reporting has been improved and made more timely. Many personnel changes have been made.

Williams said that the budget, which must by law be balanced in 1999, should be balanced in 1998 to avoid delay in needed changes and avoid the political costs of waiting. The dilemma is to make cuts without doing unintended damage to vital services, given the unreliability of financial reports and the multiple problems being tackled at once. Williams described this problem as not wanting to "look for a gas leak with a match." However, they must proceed with policy changes even as they try to improve the information on which they base their decisions, because they haven't the time to wait for perfect information. Williams told one person who asserted that the city lacked the capacity to make the changes envisioned by 1998 that what was needed was the will to do it; the capacity would follow.

Williams believes that better and more timely reporting will drive change. New financial

heads and staffs in each department (90 workers have recently been fired) are tasked with measuring outputs of government offices and true costs. Those figures can then be compared meaningfully with other cities' figures to discover why we spend more for less in so many areas. In addition, competition will also drive change, if the government can withstand the explosive politics of outsourcing.

A large crowd asked many questions of Mr. Williams. Among the things he said in response were the following:

— He is bringing in a nationally recognized expert in revenue management to head tax collection and deal with the chaotic system of revenues.

— He had thought the recent Brookings study would look at ways non-profits like Brookings could "invest" in the District, as by contributing to a transportation planning and infrastructure effort.

— The tax relief proposal by Delegate Norton might not be enough of a change to reverse the shrinking of investment in the District and build a critical mass.

— The Control Board's strategic plan calls for stringent review by department, including currently the police and procurement operations. The change ordered in the schools was warranted, but the head winds the Board ran into as a result have caused some trepidation about that approach for other departments.

— He would rather get the city's finances and underlying economy in shape and then turn to political issues.

— The Administration's proposal, put forward by OMB's Raines, for pulling some functions back to federal departments, canceling the annual payment in lieu of taxes and making other changes is meant to be seen as non-negotiable, but will be part of a larger budget give-and-take.

— Commuter taxes such as those available in other cities

Women's Board Holds Book Sale

The Women's Board of the George Washington University Hospital will hold a book sale on Monday, February 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. They will offer a large collection of nearly-new popular paperbacks and hardbacks at real bargain prices. All profits from the sale, which will be held outside the hospital cafeteria, will be donated to the hospital and medical center.

would be reasonable, and logically should appeal to Congressmen other than those from Maryland and Virginia, as they compare that vote to one to increase federal spending. However, such Congressmen first have to help D.C., and as a practical matter he agrees with those who say it is a non-starter.

— In cutting the 90 or so people from financial positions, he did not look at historical job evaluations as much as current performance and commitment, as measured by an outside team. He demands responsibility at each level, because he sees the financial people as navigators through a critical passage for the District. He would match his level of prior notice and communication of what was demanded with anyone. He believes that government cannot exist to provide jobs, and as tragic as a loss of job is to the families involved, poor performance for the city has been a worse tragedy.

Mr. Williams said that he gets great support from the Congress, and that the Council appreciates what he is trying to do for all supervisors and policy-makers, so that he has a good working relationship with them. However, the relationship with the Mayor (who appointed him but cannot fire him) "will always be weird."

Several members of the crowd told Mr. Williams that he had already made a real difference in the attitude and level of responsiveness of the city's employees. He was given a round of applause as he left.

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